

Impact of Implementation of Recommended Plan Alternative 6D for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Recent media and other reports have inaccurately provided information concerning the number of homes and properties in the 8-1/2 Square Mile Area that will be impacted by implementation of the recommended plan known as Alternative 6D.

Alternative 6D requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a levee and canal to improve flood damage reduction for 87 percent (525 of 602) of the existing residences in the 8-1/2 Square Mile Area. The Corps will purchase the remaining 77 affected residential tracts (24 tenant occupied tracts and 53 owner occupied tracts) to successfully implement the flood mitigation portion of the Modified Water Deliveries Project that will restore more natural flows into Northeast Shark River Slough and freshwater and coastal habitats in Everglades National Park.

The Corps' preliminary investigations estimate that 67 of these 77 residential tracts will be willingly sold by property owners. The remaining 10 residential tracts would be purchased using eminent domain against unwilling sellers. Eminent domain is the government's right to take private property for public use, and is required when an owner would like to sell but lacks clear title, when the owner is unwilling to sell, or there is disagreement on price.

The Government is obligated by law to ensure that the 77 displaced homeowners and tenants are fairly compensated to enable them to relocate to comparable or better replacement housing.